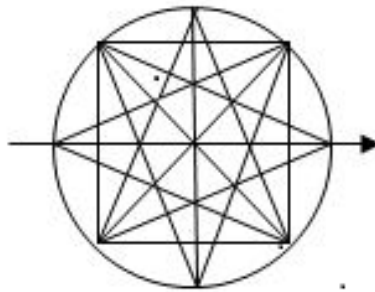


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**MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)**

Standing Committee of the Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Region) Inc.  
Reg. No. A0017562S

**Minutes**

**Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2014**

**The Willis Room, City of Whitehorse, 379 Whitehorse Road Nunawading, 9.30-12.00.**

**1. Present**

Klara Bojanic	DHS
Stephen Bourke	VicPol
Leonie Burnham	ECLC, Manager Inner East Office
Owen Butler	MFB
Isaiah Chagumaira	MIC
Jeska Chamberlain	Victoria Police, Multicultural Liaison Officer
Linda Chen	CCOEI, Community Member, ESL Teacher
Gitta Clayton	AMES Outer East Volunteer Tutor Program Coordinator
Susan Clunies-Ross	Inspira Community Health Service
Glenis Crocker	CCOEI
Jane Curry	Swinburne University, AMEP Counsellor/ESL Teacher
James Thang Deih	Australia Zo Organisation
Maria deMonte	DHS Centrelink Multicultural Services Officer
David Deng	MIC
Michael Hardie	Dorish Maru College, Rector, International Students
Margot Hennessy	AMES Youth Coordinator
Teena Lee	Eastern Health Child Youth Mental Health Services, Promotions Officer
Jaya Manchikanti	City of Knox, Multicultural Community Officer
Sam Navarria	CCOEI
Andree O'Donnell	AMES Settlement
Saturnino Onyala	MIC Settlement Support Worker
Madeleine Parker	DEECD EMR, School Development Officer ESL
Sarah Reid	Maurice Blackburn
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI
Bwe Thay	Swinburne University
Sui Ting Tse	CCOEI
Clary Verbunt	CCOEI, Dutch Community
Fred Warren	Holmesglen TAFE
Frank Yaman	MFB

**Apologies**

Linda Boyd	Swinburne University, Operations Manager
Karen Connolly	Swinburne University, Team Leader CALD
Chris Cosgriff	CCOEI; Anchor; Coranderrk
Heather Cosgriff	CCOEI; Coranderrk
John Devine	Anchor, CEO
Twanny Farrugia	CCOEI, DonateLife Community Champion
Slavica Jurcevic	Department of Social Services, Settlement Grants Manager
Cindy Kung	Louise Multicultural Centre, Program Coordinator
Deborah Lawrence	Eastern Health Child Youth Mental Health Services, Promotions Officer
Penny Moore	City of Maroondah, Community Development Officer
Evie Thomas	Eastern Health CYMHS, Senior Clinical Advisor

## **Guest**

Rudy Monteleone

Director, VMC

### **2. Minutes May 2, 2014 meeting**

Minutes circulated electronically. Moved Jeska Chamberlain. Seconded Sui Ting Tse. Accepted.

### **3. Business Arising**

Incorporated in agenda

### **4. Settlement Needs in your Area**

For information and action by MSC members. No issues reported via form.

### **5. Correspondence**

Sam brought the following items to the attention of members:

- Refugee Council of Australia – Refugee Community Advisory Network
- Crime Prevention Grant – Need to set up a Steering Committee
- City of Whitehorse – Minor Grant
- City of Whitehorse – Spring Festival

### **6. Meeting focus**

**Victorian Multicultural Commission – achievements, directions, update on Regional Advisory Councils.**

**Speaker – Rudy Monteleone, Director, VMC.**

Rudy Monteleone was appointed Director of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) in January 2014. He has previously handled many portfolios and was on the Public Service Board and a Victorian Juries Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Victoria for over 11 years. He travelled overseas with a Churchill Fellowship in 2011. Rudy was born in Mildura.

Established in 1983, the VMC has provided independent advice to the Victorian Government to inform the development of legislative and policy frameworks, as well as the delivery of services to a culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse society.

Operating under the [Multicultural Victoria Act 2011](#) the VMC has 12 commissioners: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Youth Commissioner, representative of a community organisation and eight other members. Mr Chin Tan is the Chairperson and Ms Marion Lau OAM JP the Community Representative Commissioner.

The VMC changed in 2011. The change incorporates the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship (OMAC). Rudy explained OMAC as “looking inward” and the VMC “looking outward”. OMAC falls under the Department of Premier and Cabinet. An advantage of the structure is that the VMC is able to put up its own submissions to government unencumbered. Through VMC support, many organisations celebrate diversity through events, and the VMC is proud to be seen as the benchmark for multiculturalism.

A recent international delegation of Ambassador Visitors to Victoria asked about the successful formula underpinning multiculturalism in the State. The ambassadors were impressed that 200 countries are represented in Victoria with 135 different faiths living harmoniously. This international endorsement is testimony to Victoria doing things right - Rudy noted the need to respect and protect this so we don't have it encumbered by what is happening overseas.

Victoria has 8 Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) which channel information on issues and events to the VMC. Rudy stressed that the RACs are advisory and have no decision making power. Consultations are regularly undertaken by the VMC through various channels including through the RACs. Presently consultation rounds are being undertaken with the 1<sup>st</sup> round completed and the 2<sup>nd</sup> to take place during August.

A range of issues have been identified by RACs with regard to the new structure where the model has not working as it should. Consultations raised 190 issues. These issues need to be analysed and synthesized to determine where the responsibility for them rests. Rudy said that not all of the issues are State issues. Presently, the VMC is in the process of reviewing how RACs run, with workshops planned in the near future. A recent development is that Victoria Police attends RAC meetings which mean that participants at meetings/workshops are able to hear law enforcement issues and liaise directly with the new crime prevention division.

RACs usually meet 3 times a year. Special groups have been identified as priority e.g. youth and women. Forums on youth and on women are being planned. All in all there are 24 meetings in addition to the forums. RACs are embarking on a path of renewal that will result in greater effectiveness and efficiency. Part of Rudy's role is to talk to diverse groups, including groups like the MSC.

**Members of the MSC contributed questions and comments including:**

Q. What contact is there with RAC members?

A: RACs have local government and community participation. The VMC is open to suggestions about how to feed issues to RACs. Suggestions re communicating issues to RACs included contact with the RAC Chair and invitation to attend the MSC. Rudy offered direct contact "Just email us". Groups and individuals can directly contact RAC members or the VMC to raise issues. Rudy noted that RACs are not problem solvers or mini VMCs.

Grants: The risk of falling into a silos practice/mentality was brought up and Rudy noted that organisations should look at grants strategically, e.g. concentrate on key areas and use a partnership approach.

**Question and clarification about youth forum: when, theme, target audience etc.** Rudy suggested visiting the VMC website about the upcoming Youth Forum: Youth 20 (Y20) is the official platform for young people from across the Group of Twenty (G20) countries to have their voices heard on the most pressing global economic challenges. Key concerns: Growth and jobs creation; Global Citizenship and Sustainable development (visit: <https://y20australia.com/> or contact Ms Safa Almarhoun - Youth Commissioner Australia). Key issues with regard to Employment will be presented to the G20 group.

VMC members commented that young people need to belong and that they are contributing to community and through this contribution develop self-worth. Rudy will speak with the Youth Commissioner re scholarships for youth for greater engagement.

Issue of disabled student attending ESL classes – not easy to access disability support for CALD youth who require health support. This area could be progressed to the appropriate state and federal agencies responsible for disability support services. Rudy said that the VMC will raise concerns/gaps with the relevant department.

The MSC and CCOEI offered to develop a template to alert the RAC/VMC about issues in the Eastern Region that come to their attention. Suggested headings: 1) What was the key issue; 2) Where/how was the issue identified (forums/meetings); 3) What was done about it, and 4) Recommendations.

It was suggested that at the end of each year the MSC and CCOEI table a report at their meetings and forward it to the RAC/VMC for attention – a proactive approach documenting issues for consideration and action in a more official capacity. In addition, when good work is done in the region it could also be noted in the report.

For more information about the VMC visit: <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/about-us/victorian-multicultural-commission>; for OMAC: <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/about-us/office-of-multicultural-affairs-and-citizenship>

7. **MSC Calendar 2014** - The calendar is flexible and developed in consultation with MSC members.

**MSC 2014 Calendar**

MSC meeting dates	MSC Meeting focus	MSC Forums/functions/events dates and working groups	International events in 2014 (multicultural calendar events of note)
January	No meeting		
07 Feb	Refugee Council of Australia – Australian Government policy on Asylum seekers and refugees and its impact on the ground (Louise Olliff, Settlement Policy Coordinator, RCOA); Brooke Collins - Coranderrk and community involvement: Keeping Barak's dream alive		February 1-7 United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week
07 March	Multicultural Affairs & Settlement Grants Program, Department of Social Services: an update on the changes from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) to the Department of Social Services (DSS).(Multicultural Affairs & Settlement Grants Program, DSS – Manager Anna Hughes).	Harmony Day – support activities including soccer harmony events (Australia Burma Society and others).	Sat March 15 <sup>th</sup> Coranderrk (Aboriginal Station) Festival Healesville  March 21: <u>Harmony Day</u>
04 April	Foundation House – its work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers in 2014, (Jasmina Mulugeta, Eastern Region Team Coordinator, Foundation House)		<b>April 7</b> – World Health Organisation <u>World Health Day</u>
02 May	<b>"Equality is not the same..."</b> . Leanne Sargent will speak to the outcomes of the Community Consultations undertaken by Victoria Police in 2013 and the way forward for Victoria Police. Leanne will also provide a brief overview of the newly created Priority Communities Division which has been established in recognition that Victoria Police must do more to engage effectively and purposively with the diverse communities of Victoria.	May 6: Building cultural competence: <b>Mind Your Language</b> Forum Leonie (convenor), Railey – City of Whitehorse, Maria DHS - Centrelink, Teena-Eastern Health and Linda	<b>May 21</b> - <u>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</u> ,
06 June	MSC - .30 minutes with a focus on Forums and Agency Reports, followed by Refugee Week event – see forums/events and function column	Refugee Week forum/event – working group: Cynthia (convenor), Michael, Maria. Jeska, Gitta, Jasmina. Event title: <b>Refugee Celebration</b> .	<b>June 20</b> – UN <u>World Refugee Day</u> , <b>June 26</b> – UN <u>Day - Support of Victims of Torture</u>
<b>July</b>	<b>No meeting</b>		
01 Aug	VMC and RACs – achievements and challenges. Speaker, Rudy Monteleone, Director VMC		
05 Sept	Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery – A snapshot Speaker – Ann Sathasivam, Community Organiser Coordinator, The Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery, the Salvation Army		
03 Oct	Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria – the multicultural landscape: ECCV's place in it; OR Holistic support for youth (e.g. Anchor services and programs; specific programs and services provided by JEM, NAPCAN; CMY, Life Without Barriers); OR Domestic	<b>DV:</b> theme TBC. Leonie (convenor) Jasmina, Judy (MIC) Jeska. Event title: <b>Breaking the cycle</b> . More information to be provided	<b>October 17-</b> <u>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</u> , UN recognized

	Violence Victoria OR Human Rights Law Centre or RILC. (Leonie to contact Human Rights Law Centre) OR CAV - focus on key areas of activity and concerns OR Red Cross and its work with asylum seekers and refugees in 2014.		
07 Nov	Amnesty International – its work locally and globally. Review MSC 2014 program; plan MSC 2015 program; CCOEI AGM	Refugee health forum (cultural perspectives on mental health?)	<b>November 16</b> - <u>International Day for Tolerance</u> <b>November 25</b> - <u>International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</u> ,
05 Dec	Meeting to be advised.	CCOEI Birthday Celebration?	Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> : <u>International Day for People with a disability</u> . <a href="http://www.idpwd.com.au/">http://www.idpwd.com.au/</a>

#### Other areas of interest for future meetings:

1. How LGAs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region address the needs of cultural minorities in their area
2. The law – magistrates court/Sheriff office
3. Human rights and culture (could be part of the MSC August meeting)
4. Refugee Minors Program: – changes to support clients turning 18

#### 8. Forum and Agency Reports

##### Forums

Domestic Violence Forum (Jeska Chamberlain): The working party met on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. The half day forum will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October for 3 hours. The forum will acknowledge the unique challenges faced by the community re family violence. There will be a Youth and Family focus with interactive activities.

Cultural Competence Forum (Leonie Burnham). The “Mind your language” forum was held in my May 2014. There was good active participation and interaction. The style of presentation was thought provoking. Feedback indicated that participants felt that the forum was valuable and worthwhile. Maria reported that various communities wished to find out more about this topic for future forums. A report will be provided.

Refugee Celebration (Cynthia Shaw) Held on 6<sup>th</sup> June in the Willis Room in the City of Whitehorse Nunawading premises. It was well attended. Feedback was very positive. An offer of a forum for next year has been made by Kirsten Reedy of Manningham Council. Gitta Clayton (of the Refugee Celebration Steering Committee) stated that the event model worked very well and could be duplicated/improved on into the future.

##### Seeking the Answers – Speaker Series

1<sup>st</sup> event was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> July at the Blackburn English Language School Croydon campus. The conversation focused on the participation of young males in education and employment. A number of issues were raised and acknowledged (e.g. drop out rate, disengagement, cultural expectations, literacy gap and disrupted schooling, adequacy of resources/investment as well as teaching/learning approach and learning modes). Suggestions were made to address issues of engagement including pedagogic approach, developing programs that address individual style rather than what post compulsory educational institutions may see as appropriate – attendees offered excellent suggestions, e.g. TAFE vocational courses could be more flexible and take into account individual strengths, learning styles. Outcomes of the discussion and next steps will be made available. 2<sup>nd</sup> event (date to be determined) will focus on young women participation and retention in education, training and employment, health/wellbeing and other issues that may impact on participation and retention.

##### Agency and individual reports

**Humanitarian Settlement Services - HSS (Andree O'Donnell).** Numbers are low relative to previous years - will send numbers to Cynthia and Sam. Sponsors and sponsoring now more prominent in the settlement process. Despite low numbers, schools are experiencing high demand and have waiting lists (Madeleine).

**AMES Youth program (Margot Hennessy).** Two successful youth classes at Box Hill AMES. Planning a 3<sup>rd</sup> class. 60 youth took part in football activities at Etihad Stadium - great outcome after 6 weeks of training with support from 4 clubs (Richmond, North Melbourne, Melbourne and Western Bulldogs).

**AMES Volunteer Tutor Scheme (Gitta Clayton).** English classes at Dollar Curtains still going strong and hope to continue next year. 35 students attending, with the majority from Chin and Karen backgrounds.

**Eastern Health Child Youth Mental Health Services (Teena Lee).** Virtual CALD group has met. The template - "Stop and Think" - has been amended to include value statements option which should help to better identify cultural differences.

**Victoria Police (Jeska Chamberlain).** Racist graffiti have appeared in Knox (e.g. No Chinese, No Blacks), at a Real Estate agency. Knox Police are now involved with Knox Council on an anti-racism campaign.

Police are working with Boroondara Council and Yarra Ranges on a multicultural Forum on CALD DV.

**City of Knox (Jaya Manchikanti).** The Council is collaborating with a range of organisations to organise a Community Safety Day event on 26 October in the Ozone area of Knox (near Knox Westfield Shopping Centre). Knox Council will be organising cultural performances on the day to attract people to their stall which will have a focus on anti-racism. This is in response to racist graffiti recently seen in Knox.

Jaya also circulated an excellent resource for community workers the "*Knox Multicultural Directory*" which provides useful statistics of the top 10 overseas Countries of Birth of residents in the Knox region as well as the top 10 languages other than English spoken in Knox as well as a list of the religions in Knox. The list of migrant and refugee groups in Knox is very useful and appreciated.

**ECLC (Leonie Burnham).** City of Whitehorse Community Safety Grant focus on Chinese and Greek communities.

**Migrant Information Centre (Saturnino Onyala).** Noted that MIC assists all arrivals regardless of visa category. One area of continuing focus is money management and the MIC is facilitating the SaverPlus program in partnership with Berry Street for the Hakha Chin community to learn about money management, banking and savings, proper management of targeted money, e.g. School Bonuses. The program commenced on the 5<sup>th</sup> August and will be held weekly to the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014 from 5pm to 6pm at the Ringwood Uniting Church, Cr Station Street and Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. Contact [thnem@miceastmelb.com.au](mailto:thnem@miceastmelb.com.au) for more information. Also noted management of money workshops in relation to Grants Applications and what the VMC requires with regard to the reporting and acquittals of grant money.

African community engagement: Creating awareness session held for African groups to build parent confidence in contacting Crime Stoppers when appropriate. Confidentiality and respect for privacy highlighted in workshops.

Zhomi community – information session for Zhomi to clarify/raise awareness that interpreters are to translate and not to advocate for the client. This difference was not clear to the Zhomi.

**Next MSC Meeting: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014, 9.30– 11.30 followed by CCOEI AGM 11:30 – 12:00**

**Focus: Human trafficking and modern slavery, the Salvation Army.**

**Speaker** – Ann Sathasivam Community Organiser Coordinator, The Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery, The Salvation Army

**Venue:** The Courtyard Room, City of Whitehorse Civic Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

**NOTES: (1)** For past and current CCOEI and MSC documents, including meeting papers and guest presentations, visit [www.CCOEI.org.au](http://www.CCOEI.org.au) ; **(2)** To contact Cynthia Shaw or Sam Navarria on matters relating to the MSC please use [chair.msc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.msc@gmail.com).